SPECIFICATION

Electronic Version 1.2.8

Stylesheet Version 1.0

SOY HYDROLYSATE BASED NUTRITIONAL FORMULATIONS

Background of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates generally to products for providing nutritional support. More specifically, the present invention relates to infant formulas and other specialized nutritional supplements.

[0002] It is of course known to provide enteral nutrition to an individual. Such nutrition can be provided to either afford the complete nutrition requirements to the individual or as a supplement. In a similar vein, these products can either be directed to the population in general or individuals having special requirements. For example, due to disease states or other abnormalities, individuals may not be able to tolerate certain components that may be typical of most nutritional formulations.

[0003] One type of enteral nutrition is infant formulas. Infant formulas are designed to provide nutritional support to pre-term, full-term, and post-term babies. Typically, infant formulas are directed to individuals under the age of 12 months. These formulas are either designed as a substitute for or a supplement to human breast milk. Such formulations can provide the total nutritional support for an infant or they can be used to supplement an infant's diet.

[0004] Similar to the adult population, some infants are allergic to milk-based products. For example, a number of individuals have an intolerance to regular milk formulas. This is typically due to the proteins and/or lactose in the regular milk formulas. It is therefore known to provide infant formulas based on soy proteins; soy can be used as a substitute for milk.

[0005] Additionally, infants do not have fully developed digestive systems. Certain nutritional components, for example, protein, may be difficult for infants to digest during their early development.

Summary of the Invention

[0006] The present invention provides improved nutritional formulations. In a preferred embodiment, the present invention provides an infant formula that is preferably lactose free as well as is designed to be more easily digested by infants.

[0007] To this end, in an embodiment, the present invention provides an infant formula that is lactose free comprising hydrolyzed soy protein isolate.

[0008] In an embodiment, the soy hydrolysate isolate has a degree of hydrolysis of approximately 4 to about 10%.

[0009] In an embodiment, a stabilizer system is provided based on rice starch.

[0010] In an embodiment, a stabilizer system is provided based on corn starch.

[0011] In an embodiment, the soy hydrolysate isolate comprises not less than 50% by weight of the protein of the formula.

[0012] In an embodiment, based on a ready-to-use basis, the formula includes approximately 0.5 to about 5% by weight protein.

[0013] In an embodiment based on a ready-to-use basis: the formula includes approximately 0.5% to about 5% by weight protein; approximately 1% to about 10% carbohydrate; and approximately 1% to about 10% fat.

[0014] In another embodiment, the present invention provides an infant formula including: a protein source that provides approximately 0.5 to about 10% based on weight of the formula and includes soy hydrolysate isolate; a carbohydrate source; a fat source; a stabilizer system; and vitamins and minerals.

[0015] Additionally, in an embodiment, the present invention provides a method of providing an infant formula that is lactose free and more easily digested by an

infant than at least some other lactose free infant formulas comprising the steps of using as a protein source soy hydrolysate.

[0016] An advantage of the present invention is to provide an improved infant formula.

[0017] Another advantage of the present invention is to provide an improved infant formula for infants that is easier to digest.

[0018] Still further, an advantage of the present invention is to provide a lactose-free infant formula.

[0019] Furthermore, an advantage of the present invention is to provide an infant formula that functions as a comfort product.

[0020] Moreover, an advantage of the present invention is to provide an enteral formulation that is more easily digested.

[0021] A further advantage of the present invention is to provide a method for providing nutrition to an individual having lactose intolerance.

[0022] Additional features and advantages of the present invention will be described in and apparent from the detailed description of the invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

[0023] As noted above, in the preferred embodiment set forth below, the present invention provides improved infant formulas and methods for providing nutrition to infants. However, it should be noted, the present invention can be used to construct other dietary supplements for providing enteral nutrition to other individuals requiring lactose free and protein rich supplements that are easy to digest, e.g., adults.

[0024] Pursuant to an embodiment of the present invention an infant formula is provided that is lactose free. Thus, the formula can be provided to infants having an intolerance to regular milk formulas. In addition, the formula is designed to provide more easily digestible proteins. Thus, the formula can be used with

infants, or other individuals that may have difficulties digesting proteins. For example, the formula can be used with infants that may be fussy due to an intolerance to regular soy protein formulas.

[0025] The present invention provides a soy hydrolysate based infant formula. It has been discovered that by providing hydrolyzed soy that a soy-based formula can be provided that is more easily digested and better tolerated and may have at least reduced allergenicity potential.

[0026] If desired, soy can comprise all of the protein source of the product. In an embodiment, soy comprises approximately 25% to about 75% by weight of the protein source of the product. In an embodiment, soy comprises up to approximately 50% by weight of the protein component of the formula. In an embodiment, the soy comprises 30% by weight of the total protein of the formula.

[0027] A number of soy hydrolysates can be utilized. Preferably, the soy is hydrolyzed to a moderate degree. For example, the hydrolysis, as measured by degree of hydrolysis, is preferably in the range of approximately 4 to about 10% and most preferably approximately 5 to about 8%. With a hydrolysis of, for example, 4 to 7%, it has been found that the cleaving of the soy proteins is sufficient to reduce the majority of whole soy proteins to peptides as determined by gel electrophoresis and peptide profile. Hydrolyzed soy isolate is available from Protein Technologies International (St. Louis, Missouri).

[0028] By way of example, and not limitation, embodiments of soy protein hydrolysate profiles are set forth below. Table 1 sets forth the soy protein hydrolysate specifications for an embodiment of the product.

[t1]

Table 1. Soy Protein Hydrolysate Specifications

	Per 100 grams
Protein Content	65-90
Fat	0.5-20

Moisture	8 maximum
Calcium	0.5-3.0
Phosphorus	0.5-3.0
Sodium	2 maximum
Potassium	0.5-3.0

[0029] Table 2 sets forth an embodiment of the amino acid profile of a preferred soy protein hydrolysate.

[t2]

Table 2. Amino Acid Profile of Soy Protein Hydrolysate

	g/100 g
Alanine	4.20
Arginine	7.70
Aspartic Acid	11.30
Cysteine	1.20
Glutamic Acid	19.00
Glycine	4.00
Histidine	2.60
Isoleucine	4.80
Leucine	8.00
Lysine	6.10
Methionine	1.20
Phenylalanine	5.30
Proline	5.70
Serine	5.20
Threonine	3.70
Tryptophan	1.40
Tyrosine	3.70

Valine	4.80

[0030] Table 3 sets forth the molecular weight distribution of a soy hydrolysate that has been found to function satisfactorily.

[t3]

Table 3. Molecular Weight Distribution

Molecular Weight Distribution	% Peptides	
Mol. Wt. In Daltons	Average	Range
>50000	5	4-7
5000-50000	48	44-51
1500-5000	25	23-27
<500	22	19-25
Degree of Hydrolysis	5.5	4.0-7.0

[0031] As noted, the above soy hydrolysate can be either the entire protein source or a protein thereof. The protein source can comprise, in an embodiment, approximately 0.5% to about 5% by weight of a ready-to-use formula of the present invention. For a concentrate, this level, in an embodiment of the present invention, would be approximately 1.0 to about 10% by weight of the product.

[0032] In view of the soy hydrolysate, one of the issues with respect to the product is providing a stabilizer system. Pursuant to an embodiment of the present invention, neutral rice starch is utilized to stabilize the formula emulsion. Neutral rice starch provides stability as well as better hydration conditions and allows the product to be heat sterilized without degradation. In an embodiment, the stabilizer system is high amylose corn starch, kappa, or iota carragenan. However, it should be noted that a variety of stabilizer systems can be used. Such systems ideally should allow the product to be both aseptic and retort processable.

[0033] A number of stabilizer systems have been explored. By way of example, and not limitation, the physical stability of aseptic and retort processed soy hydrolysis-

based infant formulas, based on the above soy hydrolysates, at the end of one month are set forth below in Table 4.

[0034] Table 4. Physical Stability of Aseptic and Retort Processed Soy Hydrolysate Based Infant Formula at the End of One Month

	Aseptic Product (Concentrate)			Retorted Product (RTF)		
				Phase Separation		
	Serum	Cream	Remarks	Top	Bottom	Remarks
System	(score 1 (best) - 5)			%, phase		
250 PPM kappa-carrageenan	3	3		64	36	
250 PPM kappa-carrageenan (higher pre-process temp & time)	3	3		64	36	
200 PPM kappa-carrageenan and 100 PPM iota-carrageenan	3	2.5		41	59	
2% Modified Starch	3	3		27	73	
2% Modified Starch + 200 PPM iota-carrageenan	2.5	2		18	72	
2% Rice Starch + 200 PPM iota-carrageenan	3	3.5		23	77	
2% Corn Starch (high amylose) + 200 PPM iota-carrageenan	1.75	1	Good	41	59	
2% Corn Starch (high amylose) + 250 PPM iota-carrageenan	1.25	1.5	Good	41	59	
1.2% Corn Starch (high amylose) + 100 PPM iota-carrageenan + 150 PPM kappa-carrageenan	1.25	1.5	Good	Homogeneous		Good
1.2% Corn Starch (high amylose), 250 PPM iota-carrageenan	1.25	1	Good	20	80	Good
2% Corn Starch (high amylose), 250 PPM iota-carrageenan	1.25	1	Good	41	59	
1.2% Corn Starch (high amylose), 250 PPM iota-carrageenan	1.25	1.5	Good	45	55	
1.2% Corn Starch (high amylose), 100 PPM iota-carrageenan, 150 PPM kappa-carrageenan	1.25	1.5	Good	27	73	Good
1.2% Corn Starch (high amylose), 250 PPM kappa-carrageenan	1.25	1.5	Good	15	85	Good

[0035] In addition to the protein source and stabilizer, the product will also include necessary macro and micronutrients to provide a complete nutritional product. In an embodiment of the present invention, a ready-to-use product will include approximately 1% to about 15% by weight carbohydrates. As a concentrate, in an embodiment of the present invention, the carbohydrates will comprise approximately 5% to about 20% by weight of the product.

[0036] In an embodiment of the present invention, the ready-to-use product will comprise approximately 1% to about 10% by weight fat. In an embodiment of the present invention as a concentrate, the product will comprise approximately 4 to about 20% by weight of fat.

[0037] The remaining components of the product will include vitamins and minerals with the majority of the product being water.

[0038] Set forth below are tables illustrating ready-to-feed formulas, concentrated infant formulas, and powdered infant formulas. Each of the tables sets forth embodiments of the formulations. In this regard, each of the tables sets forth, embodiments of possible ranges of each of the components.

[0039] Table 5. Ready-to-Feed Formula

	Dry matter basis % by weight			
	Preferable Ranges		Preferred Ranges	
RAW MATERIALS	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower
RO water				
Maltrin M-180	7 604	1 901	6 178	3.327
Soy hydrolysate isolate	4 436	0 887	2 883	1.553
Intact Soy Isolate	Up to 50% of total protein		Up to 30% of total protein	
Sucrose	2 327	0 582	1 890	1 018
Palm Olein oil	2 226	0 557	1 809	0 974
Soybean oil	1.247	0 312	1 013	0.545
Coconut oil	0 980	0 245	0 796	0 429
Corn Starch (High amylose)	0 885	0 221	0 719	0 387
H O Safflower Oil	0 276	0 069	0 225	0 121
Soy Lecithin, 3 FUB	0 262	0 066	0.213	0 115
Dimodan BPT/K	0 218	0 054	0 177	0 095
Potassium Chloride	0 123	0 031	0 100	0 054
Sodium Citrate	0 111	0 028	0 091	0.049
Calcium Citrate, 4H2O	0 081	0 020	0 065	0 035
Sodium ascorbate	0 057	0 014	0 046	0 025
L-Methionine	0.039	0.010	0.031	0 017
Choline Bitartrate	0.028	0 007	0.023	0.012
Inositol	0 023	0 006	0 019	0 010
Magnesium Chloride 6H2O	0.018	0.004	0 014	0 008
Potassium Citrate	0 0155	0 0039	0 0126	0 0068
Kappa-Carrageenan	0 0203	0 0027	0 0088	0 0047
Taurine	0.0105	0 0026	0 0085	0.0046
Alpha tocopherol acetate	0 0101	0 0025	0 0082	0 0044
Iota-Carrageenan	0 0135	0 0018	0 0059	0 0032
Ferrous sulfate	0 0057	0.0014	0 0047	0 0025
Magnesium Oxide	0 0051	0 0013	0 0041	0 0022
L-Carnitine	0 0033	0.0008	0 0027	0 0015
Zinc sulfate	0 0025	0 0006	0 0021	0 0011
Niacinamide	0.0025	0.0006	0 0020	0 0011
Vitamin A acetate	0.0018	0 0005	0 0015	0.0008
Vitamin K1	0.001548	0.000387	0.001258	0 000677
Beta carotene	0 001371	0 000343	0 001114	0 000600
Vit D3	0.000912	0.000228	0 000741	0 000399
Pantothenic acid	0 000844	0.000211	0 000686	0 000369
Potassium iodide	0 000283	0 000071	0 000230	0 000124
Copper sulfate	0 000243	0 000061	0 000198	0 000107
Riboflavin	0.000176	0 000044	0 000143	0.000077
Thiamine hydrochloride	0.000135	0 000034	0 000110	0 000059
Pyridoxine hydrochloride	0 000123	0 000031	0 000100	0 000054
Cobalamin	0 000061	0.000015	0 000049	0 000027
Folic Acid	0.000035	0 000009	0 000029	0 000015
Biotin	0 000013	0 000003	0 000011	0 000006
Sodium selenate	0 000006	0 000001	0 000005	0 000002

[0040] Table 6. Concentrate Infant Formula

RAW MATERIALS	Dry matter basis % by weight			
	Preferrable Ranges		Preferred Ranges	
	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower
RO water				
Maltrin M-180	14.860	3.715	12.073	6.501
Soy hydrolysate isolate	6.931	1.733	5.632	3.032
Intact Soy Isolate	Up to 50% of total protein		Up to 30% of total protein	
Sucrose	4.544	1.136	3.692	1.988
Palm Olein oil	4.348	1.087	3.533	1.902
Soybean oil	2.435	0.609	1.978	1.065
Coconut oil	1.913	0.478	1.554	0.837
Corn Starch (High amylose)	1.728	0.432	1.404	0.756
H O Safflower Oil	0.540	0.135	0.439	0.236
Soy Lecithin, 3 FUB	0.512	0.128	0.416	0.224
Dimodan BPT/K	0.426	0.106	0.346	0.186
Potassium Chloride	0.240	0.060	0.195	0.105
Sodium Citrate	0.218	0.054	0.177	0.095
Calcium Citrate, 4H2O	0.157	0.039	0.128	0.069
Sodium ascorbate	0.111	0.028	0.090	0.049
L-Methionine	0.075	0.019	0.061	0.033
Choline Bitartrate	0.054	0.014	0.044	0.024
Inositol	0.045	0.011	0.037	0.020
Magnesium Chloride 6H2O	0.034	0.009	0.028	0.015
Potassium Citrate	0.0302	0.0076	0.0246	0.0132
Kappa-Carrageenan	0.0396	0.0053	0.0172	0.0092
Taurine	0.0204	0.0051	0.0166	0.0089
Alpha tocopherol acetate	0.0197	0.0049	0.0160	0.0086
Iota-Carrageenan	0.0264	0.0035	0.0114	0.0062
Ferrous sulfate	0.0112	0.0028	0.0091	0.0049
Magnesium Oxide	0.0099	0.0025	0.0080	0.0043
L-Carnitine	0.0065	0.0016	0.0053	0.0028
Zinc sulfate	0.0050	0.0012	0.0040	0.0022
Niacinamide	0.0049	0.0012	0.0040	0.0022
Vitamin A acetate	0.0035	0.0009	0.0029	0.0015
Vitamin K1	0.003024	0.000756	0.002457	0.001323
Beta carotene	0.002678	0.000670	0.002176	0.001172
Vit D3	0.001782	0.000446	0.001448	0.000780
Pantothenic acid	0.001648	0.000412	0.001339	0.000721
Potassium iodide	0.000553	0.000138	0.000449	0.000242
Copper sulfate	0.000475	0.000119	0.000386	0.000208
Riboflavin	0.000343	0.000086	0.000279	0.000150
Thiamine hydrochloride	0.000264	0.000066	0.000214	0.000115
Pyridoxine hydrochloride	0.000240	0.000060	0.000195	0.000105
Cobalamin	0.000119	0.000030	0.000097	0.000052
Folic Acid	0.000069	0.000017	0.000056	0.000030
Biotin	0.000026	0.000006	0.000021	0.000011
Sodium selenate	0.000011	0.000003	0.000009	0.000005

[0041]

Table 7. Powder Infant Formula

	Dry matter basis % by weight			
	Preferable Range		Preferred Range	
RAW MATERIALS	**Upper**	**Lower**	**Upper**	**Lower**
Maltrin M-180	66 188	16.547	53 778	28.957
Soy hydrolysate isolate	**27.267**	**6.817**	**22.154**	**11.929**
Intact Soy Isolate	**Up to 50 % of total protein**		**Up to 30 % of total protein**	
Sucrose	17 994	4 499	14 620	7 872
Palm Olein oil	17 978	4 495	14 607	7 866
Soybean oil	10.068	2 517	8 180	4.405
Coconut oil	7 910	1 978	6 427	3 461
H O Safflower Oil	2 232	0 558	1 813	0 976
Soy Lecithin, 3 FUB	2 028	0 507	1 647	0 887
Dimodan BPT/K	0 000	0 000	0 000	0 000
Potassium Chloride	0 950	0.238	0 772	0.416
Sodium Citrate	0 862	0 215	0 700	0 377
Calcium Citrate, 4H2O	0 626	0 157	0 509	0 274
Sodium ascorbate	0.440	0.110	0 358	0 193
L-Methionine	0 298	0 074	0 242	0 130
Choline Bitartrate	0 215	0 054	0 175	0 094
Inositol	0 180	0 045	0 146	0 079
Magnesium Chloride 6H2O	0 137	0 034	0.111	0 060
Potassium Citrate	0 1197	0.0299	0 0972	0 0524
Taurine	0 0808	0 0202	0 0657	0 0354
Alpha tocopherol acetate	0 0780	0 0195	0 0634	0 0341
Ferrous sulfate	0 0444	0 0111	0 0361	0 0194
Magnesium Oxide	0 0392	0.0098	0 0318	0 0171
L-Carnitine	0.0257	0 0064	0 0208	0 0112
Zinc sulfate	0 0197	0 0049	0 0160	0 0086
Niacinamide	0 0195	0 0049	0 0158	0 0085
Vitamin A acetate	0.0140	0 0035	0 0114	0.0061
Vitamin K1	0 011975	0 002994	0 009730	0 005239
Beta carotene	0 010606	0 002652	0 008618	0 004640
Vit D3	0 007057	0 001764	0 005734	0 003087
Pantothenic acid	0 006526	0 001632	0 005303	0 002855
Potassium iodide	0.002190	0.000547	0.001779	0.000958
Copper sulfate	0 001883	0 000471	0 001530	0 000824
Riboflavin	0 001360	0.000340	0 001105	0 000595
Thiamine hydrochloride	0 001044	0.000261	0 000848	0 000457
Pyridoxine hydrochloride	0 000949	0 000237	0 000771	0 000415
Cobalamin	0.000470	0.000118	0 000382	0 000206
Folic acid	0 000274	0 000068	0 000222	0 000120
Biotin	0 000103	0.000026	0 000083	0.000045
Sodium selenate	0 000043	0 000011	0 000035	0 000019

[0042] The present invention provides improved infant formulas. These infant formulas can be utilized either as a supplement to or complete nutrition for the infant. Additionally, as illustrated above, the infant formulas can be provided as a ready-to-use product, a concentrate, or a powder that needs to be reconstituted. The formulas are designed to provide comfort to an infant. As used herein, a comfort formula is one that is more easily digestible for an infant or other individual. Due to the use of hydrolyzed soy, these formulas are easier for infants to digest.

[0043] It should be understood that various changes and modifications to the presently preferred embodiments described herein will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Such changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention and without diminishing its intended advantages. It is therefore intended that such changes and modifications be

covered by the appended claims.